

Connections Make a Difference

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR GENERATIONS CREATING HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMERCIAL AREAS

Bloomington has always been a place where people build their lives around community from the Native Americans who called the area home, to the productive farms that flourished in the late 1800s and early 1900s, to the population explosion that brought thousands of people here to build homes beginning in the 1950s. This growth made Bloomington the thriving city it is today.

As Bloomington continues to change, the City looks for ways to renew and revitalize neighborhoods through development.

“New development renews a community, keeping its businesses and neighborhoods healthy and functional for present and future generations,” Community Development Director Larry Lee said.

Renewal efforts in 2010 included:
1 CVS Pharmacy at Lyndale Avenue and 90th Street; **2** Richfield Bloomington Credit Union on 9550 Lyndale Avenue; **3** Kopp Center at Normandale Community College; and senior residential facilities such as **4** Wealshire of Bloomington, 106th and Lyndale, and **5** Founders Ridge within the Bethany Fellowship campus on Auto Club Road. See map.

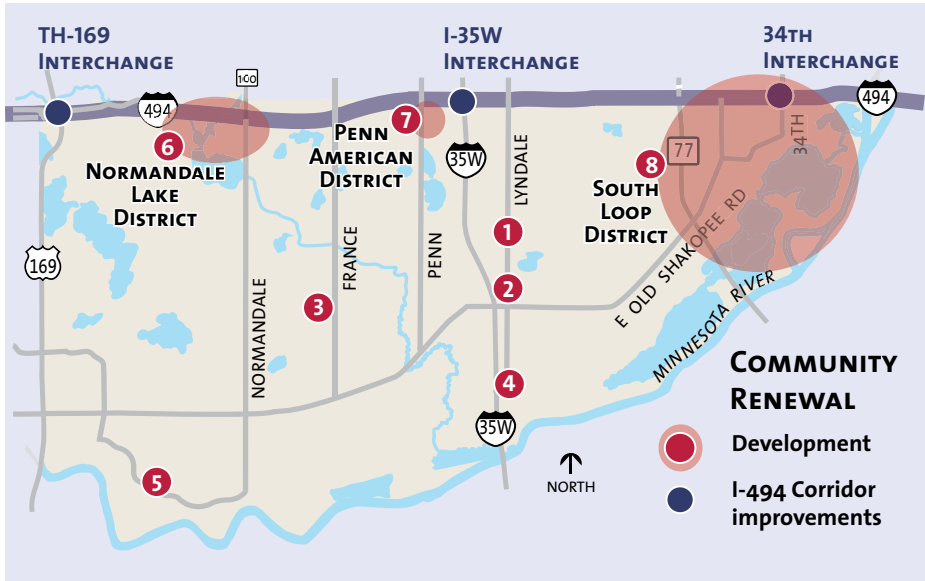
This year, major district improvements will also move forward.

6 Normandale Lake District
Luxembourg, a three-story, 282-unit apartment building with a parking ramp, is in the permit-issuing stage.

7 Penn American District
Located on Penn Avenue and American Boulevard, this district will be home to a mix of retail, office and residential spaces. The first phase will include three residential buildings with retail at the street level.

8 South Loop District
The area, extending from TH-77 on the west to I-494 on the north and to the Minnesota River on the south and east, will undergo major changes. Lindau Lane, from 24th Avenue to Bloomington Central Station, will be extended to improve accessibility and encourage the use of alternative transportation.

Other plans include creating a new residential neighborhood in the area of 34th Avenue and American Boulevard, streetscape improvements, Mall of America transit station renovations and new buildings lining 24th Avenue.



In addition, a new 501-room Radisson Blu hotel broke ground at the Mall of America in May.

By revitalizing our existing commercial and residential areas and building upon the district’s assets, we make certain that Bloomington will remain a desirable place to live, work and play for generations to come.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: DEVELOPMENT MAP.



IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE CARING FOR OUR PARKS AND FURRY FRIENDS

The City is improving the quality of life for residents and their furry companions while saving money and resources. Park Maintenance recently created new “doggie bag” dispensers to replace the plastic pet waste mitts the City used to purchase for public use.

“The new ‘bring a bag, take a bag’ system doesn’t just cut costs, it eliminates them,” Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Paul Edwardson said. “When we have all of the new dispensers in place we estimate the City will be saving at least \$3,000 - \$4,000 per year.”

Currently installed in the off-leash dog park on Nesbitt Avenue and 111th Street and soon in more than a dozen City parks, the dispensers hold plastic bags that have been recycled by residents and employees.

According to Edwardson, the response to the new system and participation of park users has been extremely positive.

“We had a lot of support for this project and really consider it a win-win situation all around,” Edwardson said.



MORE PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY STREETS CONSTRUCTED

One of the goals of the South Loop District Plan is to create more mixed-use living and working communities. The City plans to transform the large street grid into a smaller and more pedestrian-friendly environment with improved accessibility that encourages the use of alternative transportation such as biking and walking.

KEEP THE CITY MOVING IMPROVING OUR MAIN ARTERIAL HIGHWAYS

Transportation arteries are the key to connecting our community. One major artery that will be undergoing reconstruction beginning this year is the I-494 corridor. See map above.

“The I-494 corridor has served as the gateway to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the Mall of America and countless area businesses for decades,” Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates said. Yet, growing travel demand and

atrophying pavement means that much of the corridor needs upgrading. Plans for reconstruction of this vital corridor include three major intersections.

Reconfiguration of I-494/TH-169 interchange

Reconfiguring the intersection will remove the remaining stoplights along TH-169, a major source of congestion. In addition, the interchange will be rebuilt with six freeway-to-freeway ramps. Six roundabouts will be spaced evenly

around the highway to further reduce traffic caused by four-way stops.

I-494/I-35W interchange

Interchange improvements include construction of a “turbine-interchange” at I-35W/I-494 and a bus rapid transit station on I-35W, see rendering at left, to increase transit options and draw people to the Penn American District.

34th Avenue interchange

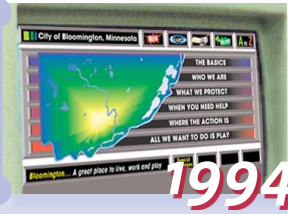
Improvements will begin with construction of a diverging diamond interchange that will eliminate the need to cross traffic in order to access I-494 and minimize left turn signals.

All of these construction projects along I-494 will be completed in phases. A result of the current economic downturn, many “mega projects” have been tabled in favor of higher-benefit, lower-cost plans that can be completed incrementally over time.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: I-494.



The City published its first newsletter.



The City’s website went online with just under 200 pages.



The first River Rendezvous was held at Pond-Dakota Mission Park.